an>

Title : Need to expedite the work of laying a new railway line connecting Erode-Palani via Chennimali, Kangayam and Dharampura.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, during the Budget Speech for the year 2005-2006, the Railway Minister had announced laying of a new railway line connecting Erode − Palani via Chennimali, Kangayam and Dharapuram and later allocated necessary funds for survey. Survey was also undertaken by the Southern Railway and was completed. However, the project is yet to be materialized.

Palani is one of the abodes of Lord Karthik. A famous temple is situated in the Palani hillock. Lakhs of devotees are coming to this temple every year. Besides, devotees going to Sabarimalai (Kerala) also make it a point to visit this hill town. Palani town is in the botoom of Kodaikanal Hill an important Tourist spot and Munnar Hills, with Tea and Coffee estates are important places of tourist attraction. Further Amravati Dam, Thirumoorthy Falls attracts tourists during all seasons.

In Erode district 450 Modern rice mills are located. Out of this, 250 Modern are situated in Kangayam. Besides, 6 ghee manufacturing units are also located in Kangayam which exports ghee.

In Chennimali, nearly 10,000 powerloom and handloom industries are functioning. Nearly 32 lorry booking offices are also located. Daily hundred tonnes of finished goods are transported throughout the country.

Hence, laying of Erode − Palani new line is utmost important to promote trade and industry and to facilitate the travelling public in the region. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to allocate necessary funds for acquisition of land besides taking immediate steps for the implementation of the project.